technology in the wake of installation of online computers. LIC have taken steps to overcome the teething trouble quickly.

(b) to (d) A complaint was received regarding non-receipt of premium receipt and remittance of premium after revival. Since the copy sent by post by the LIC was not received by the policy holder, the office sent certified copies of the premium receipts to the policyholder. The second complaint regarding double payment of premia has since been rectified by refunding the excess payment to the party. Apart from these two complaints, a few complaints were received regarding non-issue of policy bonds. This is on account of the incorrect address given in the proposal form by the party or due to postal non-delivery. These have since been rectified by the LIC.

The following measures have been taken to improve the performance of the LIC in the matter.

(a) installation of computers in all branches located at Zonal Headquarters of Eastern Zone?

(b) to network all branch offices in Calcutta Metro Division; and

(c) training of staff members has been strengthened.

These measures, it is hoped by the LIC, would improve customer service.

Cases Pending before CEGAT

1759. SHRI RAGHAVJI: PROF. VIJAY MALHOTRA: KUMAR

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of cases pending before Customs, Excise and Gold (Control) Appellate Tribunal for settlement as on 30th September, 1998 together with period of pendency;

(b) what are the reasons for their pendency; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken for their speedy settlement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE (SHRI KADAMBUR MR. JANARTHANAN): (a) sir the total number of pending cases is 33,450 as on 30.9.98. the period pendency is given in the statement. (See below).

(b) The reasons are as follows:—

(i) The number of posts of Members sanctioned for the Tribunal is not commensurate with the number of appeals.

(ii) Appeals involving Public Sector undertakings and Central Govt. Departments remain pending until clearance of the Committee on Disputes is obtained.

(iii) Appeals relating to raising of the demand for Central Excise Duty for past period have to be kept pending as the matter has been referred to the Constitutional Bench of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

(c) The steps are as follows:—

(i) Regional Benches have been empowered to hear and decide certain categories of cases;

(ii) Single Member Benches have been authorised to decided cases involving amount upto Rs. 10 lakhs.

(iii) Circuit Benches have been started;

(iv) A pilot project for computerisation has been approved.

Statement

Details of yearwise pendency of Appeals in CEGAT
Position as on 30.9.1998 as per Existing record

"s. No.	Year	Nos. of appeals pending
1.	1980	3
2.	1981	3
3.	1983	17
4.	1984	7
5.	1985	16
6.	1986	47
7.	1987	134
8.	1988	355
9.	1989	584
10.	1990	755
11.	1991	1241
12.	1992	2009
13.	1993	2436
14.	1994	2455
15.	1995	3130
16.	1996	3652
17.	1997	6918
18.	1998 (upto 30.9.1998)	9688
	TOTAL	33450

Modification in PPF Withdrawal Rules

1760. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has a proposal to modify the PPF withdrawal rules for nominees; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Disbursal of amount collected under VDIS

1761. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount collected by Government as tax under the Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme (VDIS) upto 31st December, 1997;

(b) the proportion in which money has been shared between the Union and State Governments',

(c) the actual amount transferred to the State Governments as on date, Statewise;

(d) the projects on which the Central and State Governments have spent this money;

(e) whether full share of the State Governments has been disbursed to them and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) by when the balance of State shares will be paid to them?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) VDIS collections were estimated at Rs. 10050 crores in RE 1997-98. Audited figures of actuals are awaited.

(b) and (c) 77.5% of the net proceeds of individual declaration was shared with the State. The share of the States worked out to Rs. 7594 crores which was paid in March, 1998. The share of each State was based on the percentage prescribed for that State by the Tenth Finance Commission for income-tax. State-wise share is shown in the Statement enclosed (See below)

(d) The share of the States was not linked with any projects.

(e) Yes, Sir

(f) Question does not arise.